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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

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SUBJECT Return of Zeiss Specialists from the USSR

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- At the end of May 1952, about 100 former Zeiss technicians returned to East Germany from Russia where they had been sent during Operation Ossawakien in October 1945. The total number of this group of Zeiss returnees was about 400 including family members. The returnees were taken to Arfa-Wolfa from Frankfurt/Oder where they spent several days before they were picked up by Zeiss Director Hugo Schrale and brought to Jena.
- Most of the returnees came from Leningrad. These persons had, during the war, worked in the Zeiss department which produced range finders of six to eight meters in length for ships' guns; range finders of about one meter in length for infantry rifles; and anti-aircraft fire directors (Kommandogeräte). Among the Leningrad returnees were also specialists who, during the war, had produced the so-called BOFE (Bombenfernrohr) and a later development of it, the LOFE (Lotferrohr). Other returnees came from Kiev; these were mostly specialists in the development of optical systems (Optika). About ten of the returnees came from Sagorsk in the Moscow region; they were specialists in the development of physical-optical and optical devices.
- Among the returnees from Leningrad were (fnu) Fulk, well-known Zeiss specialist on the construction of range finders, and (fnu) Kästner, former Zeiss chief for the construction of anti-aircraft fire directors. Dr. Hans Kortum, former SS Sturmbannführer and one of the important war-time Zeiss specialists on the construction of military equipment, had not returned from Russia as of the end of June 1952.

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